

May 1, 1975

you please stand and be recognized. In the North balcony, with Senator Dickinson, are 40 fourth grade students from Millard Public School in Millard. Would you please stand and be recognized.

There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President. Senator Fowler offered an amendment to LB 417. It can be found on page 1509 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to present this amendment. I would like to point out at the start that I'm not opposed to LB 417. I think that Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Luedtke have brought in a very fine bill here. I'm not opposed to the direction that they're trying to take corrections. I realize they've put a great deal of work in and I think there's some very fine things in this bill. My amendment deals with just one part of the bill, that's Section 39. It relates to the question of the size and location of the new reformatory, or medium-minimum security facility that we're going to build. The amendment I propose calls for four smaller facilities, rather than the one 300 inmate facility that exists in the bill. Mine would call for a facility in Douglas County, one in Lancaster County, one in Western Nebraska and one in Central Nebraska. The Douglas County facility and the Lancaster County facility would house about 100 to 125 inmates. The one in West and Central Nebraska would probably be around 75 inmates each. Briefly there are two major reasons for this. One, I think this amendment and by spreading the facilities around, would keep the inmates closer to home and closer to their communities, maintaining ties with friends and family, which I think is very important for the correctional programs. Secondly, I think there is a value in smaller institutions. It provides more personal attention. The inmates will be more likely to be dealt with as individuals. You will not see the growth of an inmate social climate that creates the school for crime. Now after I proposed this amendment three charges were made against me. One, that it's irresponsible to bring in an amendment to a bill like this, to change . . . propose a change in this bill. Second, that the adoption of this amendment would jeopardize the passage of 417. Third, that I would be building too much capacity for correctional programs. Now I do not want to be known as irresponsible. As I indicated, I support 417. I do not want to jeopardize its passage. I certainly do not want to overbuild correctional capacity. One of the introducers of the bill, one of the co-sponsors - Senator Cavanaugh, has proposed a compromise amendment. It doesn't have everything in it that I wanted. I don't think it goes quite far enough. I'd be willing to accept this compromise. Therefore, I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment and I would support the amendment proposed by Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Fowler asks for unanimous consent to withdraw his amendment. No objections? So ordered. Senator Kremer.